

LOUISIANA'S OLD STATE CAPITOL

**Center for Political and
Governmental History**



Exhibit Guide

(Revised 2003)



**W. Fox McKeithen
Secretary of State**

*Louisiana's Old State Capitol
Center for Political and Governmental History*

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a learning experience in Louisiana history and the democratic process through exhibitions, educational outreach, and the arts. This historic and diverse facility advances the visitor's knowledge of our rich cultural heritage and vibrant political tradition.

Adopted April 30, 1996

High on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River stands Louisiana's Old State Capitol, a Gothic architectural treasure. For over 150 years, the old statehouse has withstood wars, fires, bitter debates, abandonment and occasional fist-fights!

Under the direction of Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen, the building opened as the Center for Political and Governmental History in 1994. The Center is promoted as a major attraction for tourism and is the state's official repository of film and video archives. The Old State Capitol received the National Honor Award from the *National Trust for Historic Preservation*, the Award of Commendation from the *American Association of State and Local History* for the Louisiana Purchase Exhibit; the award for Excellence in Architectural Design from the *American Institute for Architects*; and the Southeastern Museums Conference Curators' Exhibition Award for 2002 for the "We the People" Exhibit.

Look Inside the Capitol for:

- ◆ Unique blend of Gothic and Victorian architecture, 1850 and 1882
- ◆ Faux-bois (a painting technique for wood developed by artisans specializing in hand-painting) and gold leafing throughout the building
- ◆ Cast iron staircase
- ◆ Stained glass windows in the House and Senate Chambers
- ◆ Cathedral dome
- ◆ Black and white fossilized marble floors
- ◆ Magnificent replica chandeliers in the House and Senate Chambers
- ◆ Intricate brass hardware on the doors

Look On the Grounds for:

- ◆ 1885 cast iron fence encompassing the five acre grounds
- ◆ The tomb of Confederate Governor Henry Watkins Allen
- ◆ "Merci Train" - a gift of a WWI railroad boxcar given to each state after WWII by France
- ◆ A rare Ginkgo tree, said to be one of the first of its kind brought to America
- ◆ Ask about our ghost, Pierre!

HOURS:

Monday, by appointment only

Tuesday - Saturday * 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday * Noon - 4:00 p.m.

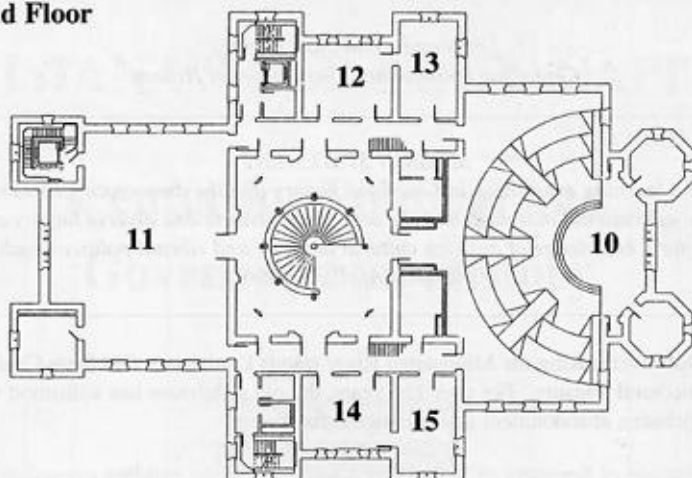
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Second Floor



- 9. 1882 Agricultural Department for Temporary Exhibits** *(Sponsored by Freeport-McMoran)*
See Insert.

- 10. 1882 House Chamber** *(Lodwick M. Cook Education Auditorium)*
Fly over the vast land formations and feel the wonder of the land that was the Louisiana Purchase Territory through a high-definition production.

- 11. 1882 Senate Chamber** *(Sponsored by 1994 Louisiana State Senate)*
Travel back in time as you enter the Chamber where the debates continued from the House Chamber on interesting and important legislation.

- 12. We the People...** *(Sponsored by the Shell Oil Company Foundation)*
Learn how you are affected by the laws passed in your state and "become" an elected official, commissioner or activist.

- 13. We the People...** *(Sponsored by Charles and Douglas Manship)*
Connect to your legislators by committing to become involved in the political process. Meet individuals who have truly made a difference in our society.

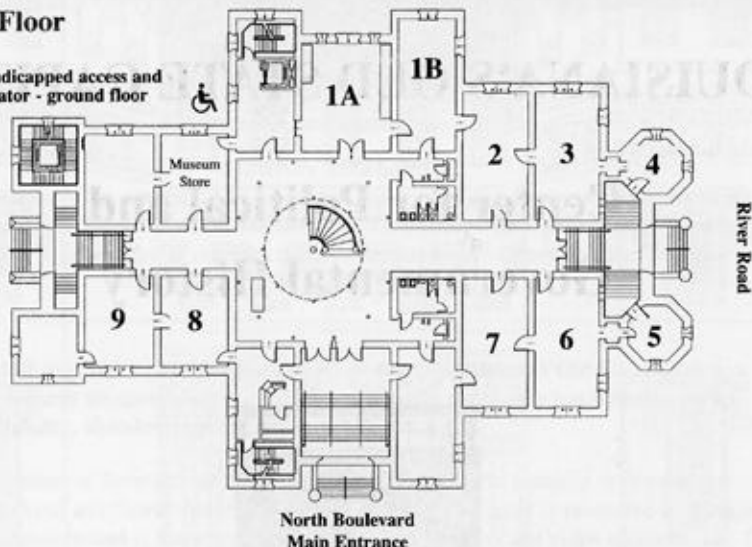
- 14. We the People...** *(Sponsored by the Chevron Corporation)*
Experience campaigning firsthand. Watch as a political story unfolds and learn how to make informed decisions. Take the opportunity to film your own political "on-air" political speech.

- 15. We the People...** *(Sponsorship is Available)*
Vote! You have a decision to make. Will your attitude stop you from participating or will you overcome obstacles to reach your final destination -- "the voting booth."

**Thank You For Your Interest And Support
Of This Historic Facility.
Please Come Back And Visit Us Again!**

First Floor

Handicapped access and
elevator - ground floor



1. Governors' Suite of Offices *(Sponsored by Louisiana Public Facilities Authority-LPFA)*

A. Governors of Louisiana

See and hear the Governors who have served our great state and feel the excitement as you become a popular politician addressing the House of Representatives.

See Insert.

B. Governor's Office, featuring different Louisiana Governors and First Ladies.

See Insert.

2. National Representation Exhibit *(Sponsored by Exxon)*

Meet your voices in Washington and learn about the importance of re-districting. You can also view political commercials highlighting Louisiana Congressional candidates.

3. Huey P. Long "Live" Animatronic - Open Fall, 2003!

Experience Huey as he "comes alive" at the Old State Capitol. Here you will meet the infamous "Kingfish" and marvel at this one of a kind experience.

4. Huey Long Assassination Exhibit *(Sponsored by Uniroyal, Copolymer and other Louisiana Industries)*

Learn all the facts and then decide -- is there a continuing controversy? See the gun allegedly used to assassinate Governor Long.

5. & 6. State Houses of Louisiana *(Sponsored by the Old State Capitol Associates)*

Have you lived in a capital city? Many cities in Louisiana have served as its capital. Learn more about them and then share your most favorite Old State Capitol experience at our Story Telling Stations.

7. 1882 Treasurer's Office for Temporary Exhibits *(Sponsorship is Available)*

See Insert.

8. Louisiana Purchase Exhibit *(Sponsored by Georgia-Pacific)*

See the documents that doubled the size of the United States and recognize the states that were later carved out of the Territory. "Let the land rejoice, for you have bought Louisiana for a song" - General Horatio Gates

EXHIBIT GUIDE INSERT

1. Governors' Suite of Offices

A. Governors of Louisiana

The exhibit case to your left features Governor William C. C. Claiborne while the exhibit case on your right highlights the key players in the Louisiana Purchase.

B. Governor's Office

This exhibit focuses on Governor Murphy J. Foster and his grandson, Governor M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

7. 1882 Treasurer's Office

The uniforms of Louisiana's citizen-soldiers serving under the ten flags flown over our state from 1541 to present day are exhibited in this historic room.

9. 1882 Agricultural Department

A collection of early 19th century American decorative arts are on display in the Jeffersonian Drawing Room, representing furnishings of 1803.